

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Interdisciplinary Certificate in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies, SUI
Date: November 4, 2002

Recommended Action:

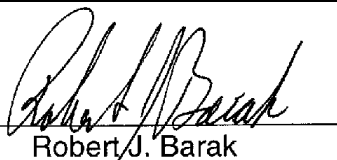
Approve the University of Iowa undergraduate Certificate in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies.

Executive Summary:

Provides Specialized Knowledge	The University of Iowa proposes an undergraduate certificate in American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Studies. The program will provide enrichment for students who are currently studying ASL and will benefit students planning on educational careers. The certificate will be useful to students and faculty in a wide variety of disciplines, in particular, linguistics, anthropology, history, American Studies, psychology, education, speech pathology and audiology, and social work. A certificate in ASL/Deaf Studies will be valuable confirmation for employers and graduate schools of students' specialized knowledge in the field.
20-30 Students Expected per Year	<p>The American Sign Language program has been in existence at the University of Iowa since 1994 and has grown considerably. Students have long expressed interest in a certificate program and a recent survey confirmed that 70 percent favor such a program. Based on these figures, 20-30 students would graduate each year with this certificate. There is a growing body of literature documenting a distinct deaf culture in the United States. Goals of the certificate include both conversational fluency as well as familiarity with the American deaf culture. The certificate in ASL/Deaf Studies may be earned by any undergraduate student. Students must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Satisfy the language requirement by successfully completing the ASL I-IV sequence, or by demonstrating equivalent proficiency; and2. Earn a minimum of 18 semester hours of credit in approved courses from at least three different departments (including at least two ASL/Deaf Studies core courses).

Developed in
Response to
Regent Request

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Education have been charged by the Board of Regents with the responsibility to develop programs in ASL and deaf education. This certificate complements those other developments and supports the University and Collegiate strategic plans. It does not duplicate existing programs. All of the courses needed for the certificate program are currently being taught. While no additional or new resources are anticipated, teaching and administrative efforts will be reallocated to support the new certificate program.



Robert J. Barak

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols

h/aa/docket/2003/nov/sui1